

CONGRATULATING TURNING NATURAL, INC. AND CELEBRATING D.C. SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Jerri Evans and her company, Turning Natural, Inc., this year's D.C. Small Business of the Year. This unique honor is part of our annual Small Business Fair, which we are holding today at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

This year, we are proud to honor Small Business of the Year Turning Natural, Inc., a juice bar located in the Southeast part of the city. Turning Natural has been a welcome fixture in the neighborhood for almost a decade. Growing up, Evans witnessed her family's difficulty accessing healthy foods. Neighborhoods where Evans grew up in Southeast were considered food deserts, and, sadly, many still are today. With the juice bar, Evans provides her neighbors a healthy alternative to fast food, carry-outs and corner stores. Today, she keeps things fresh with creative juice names like "Green Latifah," "Swizz Beets" and "Mi'Kale Jackson," and by adding a variety of new juice types to her menu, including the increasingly popular cold-press juices. Evans' mother, Annette Turner, founded Turning Natural after surviving a bout with Stage II breast cancer. Sadly, when the cancer returned in 2010, she lost that fight. Jerri continued the business and her mother's legacy, and, today, continues to run the company and to advocate for healthy living among Washingtonians.

This is the 20th time we are hosting our Small Business Fair to highlight the importance of small businesses in the District. The Fair provides critical information, counseling and resources to aspiring and current D.C. business owners. Small businesses are an essential lifeline in our local economy, and the District thrives because of their success. I thank the Washington Convention Center for hosting us again this year; the workshop experts who are providing valuable information and assistance to small businesses; and, of course, all of the small businesses who participate this year.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the D.C. Small Business of the Year, Turning Natural, Inc., as well as in celebrating our small businesses across the District. In the District and in districts around the country, we know the social, cultural and economic importance of small businesses.

STAFFORD TEACHER RETIRES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Norma Menchaca of Stafford, TX, for her outstanding contributions as a teacher the past 38 years.

Norma began her teaching career with the Stafford Municipal School District as a kindergarten teacher in 1983. After graduating from the University of Texas-Pan American, she worked for the Brownsville Independent School District, but moved to Houston after her husband became a Houston Firefighter. Norma loves the small town atmosphere of the school district and looks forward to high school graduation ceremonies so she can see her former students graduate. Today she's the longest serving teacher in the school district and said her retirement will be bittersweet. She will be missed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Norma again for her time teaching our children. She has been an important and influential member of our community shaping the minds of generations of students. We wish her a happy retirement.

AUGUSTA MAE PENN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Augusta Mae Penn for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Augusta Mae Penn is a student at Two Roads Charter School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Augusta Mae Penn is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Augusta Mae Penn for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

U.S.S. "HOBSON"

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's been over 66 years since the sinking of the USS *Hobson*. However, for those involved, that fateful day feels like it was just yesterday. The *Hobson* was a Destroyer as well as a mine-sweeping ship that survived multiple battles during World War II, including the invasion of Normandy and the assault on Okinawa. Yet, it was not an enemy ship or plane that took the *Hobson* down, but a U.S. aircraft carrier.

Late in the night of April 26, 1952, the *Hobson* was participating in a naval exercise with the carriers *Wasp* and *Rodman*. The USS *Wasp*, in preparation for airplanes to land on its deck, turned into the wind. In order to avoid

the *Wasp's* new position, the *Hobson* needed to maneuver out of its path. Instead of slowing down and passing behind the *Wasp*, the *Hobson* cut across the *Wasp's* bow. This proved to be a fatal mistake.

The *Wasp* struck the *Hobson* in its middle. The impact caused the *Hobson* to split in two. Within four minutes, the ship had sunk to the bottom of the ocean, taking 176 crew members with it. Most of the crew was asleep at the time of the accident, thus having no chance at surviving the crash. Fortunately, sixty-one crew members were able to be rescued from the sea by the *Wasp* and the *Rodman*.

The sinking of the USS *Hobson* and its crew members was a terrible tragedy for our country. The crew members who lost their lives that night will forever be remembered for their bravery and dedication. We must do our best to keep our heroes safe, both in and out of war.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MR. WILLIE SPAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Willie Span of Tamarac, Florida. Willie was a constituent of mine, who tragically passed away on October 2, 2014, after being struck by a vehicle while on his way to the William "Bill" Kling VA Clinic in Sunrise, Florida.

Since this heartbreaking accident, Willie became a symbol for pedestrian safety and for veterans in our community. Veterans had advocated long and hard for a crosswalk and traffic light to the Bill Kling Clinic, yet they were told that there were not enough pedestrians crossing the street to warrant the changes. In the time since the accident, Willie's wife, Doris Span, has continued to push for a safer way for veterans to cross the street from the bus stop to get to the clinic.

The bus stop has been temporarily removed and replaced with paratransit service for veterans, and we are all anticipating a lasting solution to avoid future tragedies. We must do everything we can to create safe places for pedestrians through the placements of crosswalks and lights. Too often, this does not happen until a terrible accident occurs.

Mr. Speaker, Willie Span was a veteran of the war in Vietnam, having served as a private in the United States Army, 8th Infantry Division. He and his wife had been married for eight years before purchasing their first home together, something that had always been his dream.

On Monday, June 19, 2017, Willie's family, friends, and representatives of the U.S. Army, the Miami VA Healthcare System, the William "Bill" Kling Veterans Clinic, the Broward County Veterans Coalition, and Broward County Transit will gather at the location of the accident to honor his memory and place a memorial plaque. He is remembered as a soft-spoken and honorable man, beloved by his family and friends. I am very pleased to honor his life and legacy.